

5. (Once Amended) The circulator of Claim 1, wherein the metal housing includes a cover and a base portion and the circulator further comprises a second pole piece disposed between the base portion of the housing and the conductor elements, and a cover return component disposed between the housing cover and the permanent magnet.

9. (Once Amended) A method of manufacturing a radio frequency/microwave junction-type circulator, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of junctions connected in cascade and configured to form a plurality of transmission paths between a plurality of signal ports, each junction including a conductor element patterned to correspond to at least a portion of the plurality of transmission paths;

providing a ferrite component configured to overlay the plurality of junctions;

providing a permanent magnet arranged in relation to the ferrite component so as to generate a magnetic field in the ferrite component, thereby causing non-reciprocal operation of the transmission paths between the plurality of signal ports; and

providing a first pole piece disposed between the permanent magnet and the ferrite component.

11. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 10 further including the steps of providing a second pole piece disposed between a base portion of the metal housing and the conductor elements, and providing a cover return component disposed between a cover of the metal housing and the permanent magnet.

#### **Remarks**

The Office Action mailed February 24, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application of which claims 1, 5, 9 and 11 have been amended.